

## R E M A R K S

1. Claims 1-95 and 119-121 are pending in this Application. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the discussion that follows.

2. Claims 1-95 and 119-121 have been subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121. In particular, the Examiner asserts that claims 1-70 and 119-121 (Group I) are "drawn to a system and method secrets based upon the six factors of a trade secret" and that claims 71-95 are "drawn to a system for providing registration and verification of the existence, ownership and contents relating to trade secrets". Applicant traverses this restriction and respectfully request reconsideration. Alternatively, applicant elects Group I, including claims 1-70 and 119-121, for prosecution in this application.

The Examiner asserts "invention I has separate utility such as ranking potential trade secrets with regard to other potential trade secrets using the six factors of a trade secret . . . without necessarily using the registration and verification system recited in invention II". It may noted in this regard that Groups I and II are all directed to the common subject matter of evaluating and tracking trade secrets. Consequently, a search directed to Group I would necessarily require the searching of the features of Group II. Thus, there is no purpose served by the restriction since no reduction in the number of search classifications or scope of search is achieved. Further, the practicalities and efficiencies of searching all categories at one time would be totally lost if restriction is required,

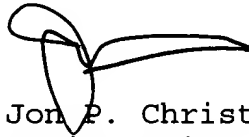
resulting in duplicative searching which is wasteful of the Patent Office's time and effort.

3. The allowance of claims 1-95 and 119, 120 and 121 as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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